

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 514  
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to commend Teddy Kyriakidis, owner of the  
Acropolis Restaurant in Chattanooga, for his  
selfless life of service to the people of  
Tennessee and of the United States.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to  
specially recognize those estimable citizens who, along with building successful businesses,  
have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Teddy Kyriakidis is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and  
probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kyriakidis first set foot in the United States in 1951 at Ellis Island,  
possessing only two dollars in cash and an inherent tradition of helping those less fortunate; this  
son of a produce company owner in Athens, Greece, was taught early in life to give aid to those  
in need; and

WHEREAS, imbued with a strong work ethic, Teddy was the owner of his own restaurant  
in Asbury Park, New Jersey, within five years of his arrival in America; he was soon partnering  
with the Salvation Army to provide meals for disaster relief efforts and worked with the Army to  
develop a meal voucher system for the poor and homeless; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kyriakidis married Betty Butler, the daughter of Salvation Army workers, in 1965; during the riots of 1970, their restaurant alone remained open to feed National Guard soldiers; and

WHEREAS, the Kyriakidis family moved to Chattanooga in 1982 and opened the Little Athens Restaurant, and Mr. Kyriakidis soon became a highly respected member of the Chattanooga community; in 1995, they moved to Hamilton Place Boulevard and opened the Acropolis Restaurant, known as a Five Star destination in the Southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary career as a restaurateur, Teddy has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; the spirit and tradition of giving and serving that he brought to this country continues in his family and employees under his lasting example; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kyriakidis' remarkable success as a restaurateur and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Teddy is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated humanitarian, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kyriakidis' many charitable activities include serving with the Salvation Army by providing meals at every local disaster since 1982, including the 1997 Chattanooga tornado and the needs of those recently stranded at the bus station due to the I-24 bus crash near Manchester; regularly giving to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank; holding a monthly fundraiser for the Make-A-Wish Foundation; donating the proceeds from the Acropolis Restaurant candy machines to orphanages; hosting a Salvation Army Angel Tree at the restaurant each year; working with the Junior Chamber of Commerce to serve Christmas meals at the Senior Towers; preparing and serving an annual meal at the Community Kitchen; offering gift certificates for meals to local nonprofits throughout the year; building houses with Habitat for

Humanity each year; encouraging a son to serve as a current Salvation Army Advisory Board member; and sharing a daughter for full-time service with the local Salvation Army staff; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Teddy is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Betty, and their children; the Kyriakidis family has infused their tradition of service in their employees and others who have come in contact with them, influencing them to join the family year-round on the frontlines, dealing with immediate needs and giving lovingly of themselves; and

WHEREAS, Teddy is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Teddy Kyriakidis for his life-long tradition of selfless giving to those in need, congratulate him upon receiving the 2001 Volunteer Advocacy Award, and salute his unswerving commitment to the well-being of his fellow human beings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.